

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NAHA 00580 01 OF 02 141045Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 /028 W
----- 123037 /11

P 140821Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO UEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1640 PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASH DC 2274 PRIORITY
INFO CG USAGO MACHINATO PRIORITY
CG 313 AD/18TFW KADENA AFB PRIORITY
COMPLEACTS OKINAWA PRIORITY
CG MARCORB CAMP BUTLER PRIORITY
OAC CAMP BUTLER PRIORITY
FSIB OKINAWA PRIORITY
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AFB PRIORITY
CG 5TH AF, YOKOTA JAPAN PRIORITY
CG USARJ CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN PRIORITY
COMNAVFORJAPAN, YOKOSUKA JAPAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC CAMP SMITH, HAWAII PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 NAHA 580
CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
E.O. 11652:N/A

PAGE 2 RHAIBQA3564 C O N F I D E N T I A L

TAGS: PINT, MILI, JA

SUBJECT: POSTMORTEM ON GENERAL ELECTION IN OKINAWA

REF: NAHA 574 (DTG 060744 DEC 76)

1. SUMMARY: WHILE THE LDP IN OKINAWA MANAGED TO HOLD ON TO ITS TWO SEATS IN THE DEC 5 GENERAL ELECTION, THE PARTY SUFFERED A 6.5 PERCENT DROP IN VOTER SUPPORT. THIS WAS LARGELY DUE TO DEEP MALAISE FELT BY OKINAWANS OVER DEPRESSED STATE OF OKINAWAN ECONOMY AND POORT PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH WHICH THEY ASCRIBED TO FAILURES ON THE PART OF LDP AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. BASE ISSUES FIGURED MUCH LESS IN THIS ELECTION THAN IN PAST ELECTIONS ON OKINAWA, BUT THE ELECTION OUTCOME PROVIDED FRESH EVIDENCE THAT REFORMISTS WHO OPPOSE OUR MILITARY PRESENCE COMMAND SUPPORT OF STABLE AND POSSIBLY INCREASING MAJORITY OF OKINAWAN VOTERS. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NAHA 00580 01 OF 02 141045Z

2. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, GENERAL ELECTION ON OKINAWA DID NOT

BRING ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN PREFECTURE'S REPRESENTATION IN DIET. TWO LDP INCUMBENTS MANAGED TO HOLD ON TO THEIR SEATS, AS DID JCP AND JSP INCUMBENTS. ONLY CHANGE WAS KOMETO CAPTURE OF VACANT FIFTH SEAT WHICH OKINAWA SOCIALIST MASSES PARTY (OSMP) CANDIDATE ASATO WON IN 1972.

PAGE 3 RHAIBQA3564 C O N F I D E N T I A L

3. VOTING STATISTICS, HOWEVER, SHOWED QUITE DIFFERENT PICTURE. THEY SHOW EXTENT OF LDP DECLINE SINCE PREVIOUS GENERAL ELECTION IN 1972. THREE LDP CANDIDATES THIS TIME POLLED FEWER VOTES (194,591) THAN IN THE 1972 ELECTION (201,005), EVEN THOUGH 55,503 MORE VOTERS WENT TO THE POLLS, AND LATTER FIGURE INCLUDED AS MANY AS TEN THOUSAND NEWCOMERS FROM MAINLAND, SUCH AS JSDF, GOJ, AND BUSINESS PERSONNEL, WHO PRESUMABLY ARE MORE CONSERVATIVE-INCLINED. TOTAL LDP VOTE IN 1976 REPRESENTS 6.5 PERCENT DROP IN VOTER SUPPORT FOR LDP--FROM 46.1 PERCENT IN 1972 TO 39.5 PERCENT IN 1976, REPORTEDLY MAKING OKINAWA THE THIRTY-THIRD PREFECTURE IN TERMS OF LDP STRENGTH. IN PERCENTAGE OF VOTES CAST FOR JCP, OKINAWA (19 PERCENT) CAME IN SECOND ONLY TO KYOTO (21 PERCENT).

4. MAJOR FACTOR IN LDP DECLINE WAS DEEP MALAISE AND FRUSTRATION FELT BY OKINAWANS OVER DEPRESSED STATE OF OKINAWAN ECONOMY AND POOR PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH. INSTEAD OF ASCRIBING PRESENT DAY ECONOMIC ILLS (RECESSION, MANY BANKRUPTCIES, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION) TO INEPT ADMINISTRATION BY REFORMISTS PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT AND TO REFORMIST OPPOSITION TO INTRODUCTION OF NEW INDUSTRY, MANY

PAGE 4 RHAIBQA3564 C O N F I D E N T I A L

VOTERS APPARENTLY BALMED LDP AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR POOR PLANNING, INSUFFICIENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND MISLEADING ECONOMIC PROGNOSIS IN PAST. EVEN AMONG CONSERVATIVE VOTERS, THERE WAS AN APPARENT ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT MOOD WHICH WORKED IN FAVOR OF KUWAE AND AGAINST INCUMBENTS NISHIME AND KOKUBA, THREE-TERM PARLIAMENTARY VICE DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY AND OKINAWA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NAHA 00580 01 OF 02 141045Z

RESPECTIVELY.

5. LOCKHEED WAS ALSO FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO LDP DECLINE THOUGH IT IS REGARDED HERE AS OF NO MORE THAN SECONDARY IMPORTANCE. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT SUBJECT OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, TEN MONTHS OF INTENSE PRESS COVERAGE OF LDP INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCANDAL TOOK ITS TOLL.

6. US (AND JAPAN SELF-DEFENSE FORCES) MILITARY BASES FIGURED

MUCH LESS IN THIS ELECTION THAN IN PAST ELECTIONS ON OKINAWA. THIS WAS DUE TO OVERRIDING VOTER INTEREST IN ECONOMIC ISSUES AND ABSENCE IN RECENT WEEKS OF ANY BASE-RELATED ACTIVITY OR INCIDENT (SUCH AS MARINE FIRING OVER HIGHWAY 104) WHICH ANTI-BASE ELEMENTS COULD HAVE EXPLOITED TO BEING BASE ISSUE TO

PAGE 5 RHAIBQA3564 C O N F I D E N T I A L

GENERAL PUBLIC. CONCILIATORY VIEWS TOWARD SECURITY TREATY EXPRESSED BY NATIONAL JSP LEADERSHIP AND TACITLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY JCP IN MID-CAMPAIGN MAY ALSO HAVE TENDED TO SOFTEN CRITICISM OF BASES BY REFORMIST CANDIDATES.

7. AS HAS LONG BEEN CASE IN OKINAWAN AND JAPANESE ELECTIONS, OUTCOME WAS ALSO INFLUENCED CONSIDERABLY BY LOCAL FACTORS OF PERSONALITY (SENAGA CONTINUES HAVE CHARISMATIC APPEAL FOR MANY OKINAWANS REGARDLESS OF JCP LABEL OR ISSUES OF THE DAY); REGIONAL LOYALTIES; ORGANIZED POWER BASE (E.G. SOKA GAKKAI SUPPORTERS OF KOMEITO); DEGREE TO WHICH INCUMBENT DIETMAN WORKED FOR CONSTITUENTS IN PAST; EXTENT OF CAMPAIGNING, ETC. STRONGER AND BETTER ORGANIZED CAMPAIGNS BY JCP (SENAGA) AND KOMEITO (TAMAKI) CUT INTO CONSERVATIVE STRENGTH. BOTH CANDIDATES, REPORTED IN DANGE OF LOSING THE ELECTION BY KNOWLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NAHA 00580 02 OF 02 141044Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 /028 W

----- 123020 /11

P 140821Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECSTATE WASH DC 2275 PRIORITY

INFO CG USAGO MACHINATO PRIORITY

CG 313 AD/18TFW KADENA AFB PRIORITY

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA PRIORITY

CG MARCORB CAMP BUTLER PRIORITY

OAC CAMP BUTLER PRIORITY

FBIS OKINAWA PRIORITY

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AFB PRIORITY

CG 5TH AF, YOKOTA JAPAN PRIORITY

CG USARJ CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN PRIORITY

COMNAVFORJAPAN, YOKOSUKA JAPAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC CAMP SMITH, HAWAII PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 NAHA 580
CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

PAGE 2 RHAIBQA3565 C O N F I D E N T I A L
SUBJECT: POSTMORTEM ON GENERAL ELECTION IN OKINAWA
WIDELY PUBLICIZED PUBLIC OPINION POLLS TAKEN IN LATE NOVEMBER,
GREATLY BENEFITTED FROM KIKIKAN (SENSE OF DANGER)
AND STEPPED-UP CAMPAIGN EFFORTS OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS
IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY.
8. THIS ELECTION HAS GIVEN THE REFORMIST CAMP RENEWED HOPE
THAT IT WOULD BE ABLE TO CAPTURE THE LDP UPPER HOUSE
SEAT HELD BY INAMINE IN NEXT SUMMER'S ELECTION. EVEN BEFORE
FINAL RESULTS OF THIS ELECTION WERE KNOWN, REFORMIST PARTIES
BEGAN MKNEUVERING TO GET STRONG UNITED FRONT CANDIDATE, SUCH
AS FORMER GOVERNOR YARA, TO RUN AGAINST INAMINE, WHO PRESENTLY
IS CONSIDERED LIKELY TO LOSE HIS SEAT.
9. OUTCOME OF LOWER HOUSE ELECTION IN OKINAWA DOES NOT
FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE SITUATION IN OKINAWA VIS-A-VIS
US INTERESTS. ELECTION PROVIDES FRESH EVIDENCE THAT REFORMIST
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NAHA 00580 02 OF 02 141044Z

PARTIES WHICH PUBLICLY OPPOSE PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES OF
OUR MILITARY BASES CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SUPPORT OF STABLE
AND POSSIBLY INCREASING MAJORITY OF OKINAWAN VOTERS--
AND THAT HENCE OUR MILITARY BASES WILL CONTINUE TO BE LOCATED
IN AN ESSENTIALLY ADVERSARY LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE

PAGE 3 RHAIBQA3565 C O N F I D E N T I A L
FORESEEABLE FUTURE. UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH VOTE FOR JCP AND
STRONG SHOWING OF REFORMIST CANDIDATES AS A WHOLE,
COMBINED WITH THE NATIONWIDE "DEFEAT" OF THE LDP,
COULD ENCOURAGE THE LOCAL ANTI-BASE ORGANIZATIONS, THE
REFORMIST PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT AND PLITICAL PARTIES HERE
TO OPPOSE BASE-REVATED ACTIVITIES MORE STRENOUSLY, FOR
EXAMPLE, WHEN THE DIET CONSIDERS THE OKINAWAN LAND LAW
THIS SPRING. AS IN THE PAST, HOWEVER, THE KEY REMAINS
NATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN TOKYO AND DEGREE TO WHICH
GOJ WILL SUPPORT US MILITARY PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES ON
OKINAWA IN THE FUTURE.

KNOWLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NAHA00580
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760460-0277
From: NAHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761245/aaaabmji.tel
Line Count: 220
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NAHA 574
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSTMORTEM ON GENERAL ELECTION IN OKINAWA
TAGS: PINT, MILI, JA
To: UEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1640 STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006